



# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **COUNCIL PRESIDENT SCOTT PETERS**

### **First District**

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Mayor and Council President Laud La Jolla Lifeguards**

SAN DIEGO – San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders and Council President Scott Peters today publicly thanked the lifeguards responsible for a recent mass rescue of swimmers in La Jolla.

On the evening of June 19, 25 students were swimming off the coast at La Jolla Shores when they were caught in a dangerous rip current. Thanks to the quick work of the lifeguards on duty, all swimmers were rescued without injury.

Mayor Sanders applauded the swift action of the team on duty that day. “San Diegans should be proud of the men and women who patrol our beaches. Lives were saved and a major tragedy was avoided thanks to the vigilance and teamwork of our lifeguards.”

Council President Peters commended the lifeguard service for their work to prevent tragic water accidents. “Lucky for us, this kind of mass rescue is unusual in San Diego, due in large part to the safety training and outreach done by our lifeguards. This is another example of how the city’s investment in our public safety agencies pays off.”

The San Diego Fire and Rescue Service was born out of a similar event. In 1918, a group of sunbathers died in the water off Ocean Beach when they were caught in a rip current. At that time there were no lifeguards stationed on local beaches. Out of that tragedy, the San Diego Lifeguard Service was established and developed into one of the nation’s largest professional lifeguard services.

The San Diego Lifeguard service has 70 full-time, year-round lifeguards and approximately 150 seasonal employees providing public safety at beaches from Point Loma to La Jolla. In 2005, San Diego lifeguards performed 4792 rescues at local beaches. The United States Lifesaving Association estimates that 80% of water rescues are due to rip currents.

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